



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

April 16, 2020

**AL TSA: NH #2020-021**  
**EMERGENCY RULES AMENDING OR SUSPENDING**  
**SOME NURSING HOME REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

The Department of Social and Health Services filed emergency rules (WSR [20-09-074](#)) effective April 13, 2020, related to Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR), resident assessments, care planning, resident groups, and discharge/transfer rules. These rules are amended, suspended, or revoked in response to the significant threat of COVID-19 to our most vulnerable populations, especially for those receiving care in nursing homes.

The following rules are amended, suspended, or temporarily repealed:

- Transfer and discharge rules: Amendment of WAC 388-97-0120 suspends the requirement to provide a bed-hold notice to a resident who leaves the facility.
- Resident assessment: Amendment of WAC 388-97-1000 removes the timeline requirements from the required resident assessment.
- Care planning: Amendment of WAC 388-97-1020 removes the requirement to develop a care plan within seven days of completion of the resident assessment.
- PASRR: WACs 388-97-1915 and 388-97-1975 were amended to permit the level I screening, and if needed, the level II evaluation to occur up to 30 days after admission.
- Resident groups: WAC 388-97-0920 ensures residents can participate in resident and family groups. The WAC was temporarily repealed.

The adoption of the rules helps to align state rules with rules the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has waived or amended in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state emergency rules expire August 11, 2020.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact [Lisa Herke](#), Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (509) 209-3088.

Sincerely,

Candace Goehring, Director  
Residential Care Services

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